

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Fr Callistus Khathali - HOMILY : FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 08 May 2022

John 10:27 - *The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.*

The gospel passage (John 10:27-30) of this Good Shepherd Sunday is very short. I will focus on the Lord who says that he knows us as individual members of the flock that belongs to him.

To be known by the Lord as individuals must be the best thing that is happening to us. Let me use two other scripture texts to explain the significance of this.

In Luke 12:7 we read that even the number of our hairs has been counted. This is in the context of how more important we are than other creatures that God cares for. In Isaiah 49:15-16 God states that he will never forget us since we are carved on the palm of his hand. Our individual names are written there.

Our Good Shepherd is therefore not a leader of a mob, or a crowd. Surely he leads multitudes that can never be counted, but he knows each and every one by name since their names are not just written, but engraved on the palm of his hand. Going back to Isaiah 49:15-16, God shows his feminine side, or his motherly qualities. A mother cannot forget a child she is breastfeeding or bearing in her womb. This is how deep the Lord is connected to us.

As we celebrate Mother's Day today let us think of this divine quality that our mothers have. God explains how he is connected to each and every one of us, by using the God given mother's connectedness to her child.

Let us pray in a very special way for mothers who are struggling to be real mothers, those who may forget children they are breastfeeding or even carrying in their wombs.

Let us give thanks to God for so many good mothers out there who are living examples of the Good Shepherd to us, those that care for us, call us by name, and are good role models to us, by leading us and showing us the path we must follow.

May Almighty God bless you the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I will meditate on the Glorious Mysteries today as I pray for your personal intentions.

Have a wonderful Sunday.

Happy mother's day to our mothers.

Fr Callistus Khathali